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(21) International Application Number: <b>PCT/AU97/00510</b> (22) International Filing Date: 13 August 1997 (13.08.97) (30) Priority Data: PO 1641 14 August 1996 (14.08.96) AU PO 5986 4 April 1997 (04.04.97) AU  (71) Applicant ( <i>for all designated States except US</i> ): THE DECOR CORPORATION [AU/AU]; 1314 Ferntree Gully Road, Scoresby, VIC 3179 (AU).  (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants ( <i>for US only</i> ): BRENNAN, James, William [AU/AU]; Unit 2, 20-28 George Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 (AU). BREWER, Peter, Russell [AU/AU]; 3 John Street, Woollahra, NSW 2025 (AU). CARLSON, Arthur, Richard [AU/AU]; 23 Leura Grove, Hawthorn East, VIC 3123 (AU).  (74) Agent: BRETT, Noel, T.; Griffith Hack, G.P.O. Box 1285K, Melbourne, VIC 3001 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>	
(54) Title: MOP SQUEEZING			
(57) Abstract <p>A mop squeezing device is provided for co-operation with a mop head of a mop (49). The mop (49) has a mop head backing (53) which carries mop material (55). The device has a mop surface engaging face (17) and displaced opposite said face (17) abutment means (19). In use the mop head is placed between the mop surface engaging face (17) and the abutment means (19) and the handle of the mop cranked. This, in turn, compresses the mop material (55) and squeezes liquid from the mop material (55). A mop having a backing for mop material is also provided. A two axis swivel connector is provided between the mop head and a mop handle. This allows the mop head to assume multi-axis of orientation during operation.</p>			

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MOP SQUEEZINGFIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to mop squeezing and  
5 relates particularly but not exclusively to mop  
squeezing for mops having a synthetic foam head.

DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

Hitherto, it has been known to use mops having a  
10 synthetic foam head or like mop head surface which can  
be compressed to squeeze the mop. In some cases the mop  
head has two wings which can be folded over on to one  
another to compress the mop surface. Such mops  
incorporate complicated mechanisms to permit the folding  
15 over of the mop wings. This in turn, increases costs.

In traditional mops which have cotton or like  
threads, it has been known to use a mop bucket which has  
a roller mechanism at the top which can be operated by a  
foot pedal to, in turn, compress the mop head to squeeze  
20 liquids therefrom. Such buckets and mechanisms are  
quite costly.

OBJECT AND STATEMENT OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present  
25 invention to provide a mop squeezing device for a mop  
having a synthetic foam or like material surface which  
attempts to overcome one or more of the problems of the  
prior art.

Therefore according to a first broad aspect of the  
30 present invention there is provided a mop squeezing  
device for co-operation with a mop head having a  
synthetic foam or like mop surface which can be  
compressed to squeeze said mop, said mop squeezing

device having a mop surface engaging face and displaced opposite to said face, abutment means for engagement with a rear face of the mop head or a part of the mop handle, whereby said mop surface can be squeezed to  
5 displace liquids therefrom by placing said mop head between said mop surface engaging face and said abutment means with said mop surface against said mop surface engaging face and cranking said mop handle so that either said rear face of the mop head or a part of the  
10 mop handle engages said abutment means and a force can be applied by such cranking and engagement to force said mop surface onto said mop surface engaging face.

It is particularly preferred that said mop and said device be designed so that the dimension of spacing of  
15 said mop surface engaging face and said abutment means, and the dimensions of the mop head assist substantially uniform pressure forces to be applied over the whole of the mop surface to affect substantially uniform squeezing of the mop surface when said mop handle is  
20 cranked.

It is further particularly preferred that said device be incorporated in a mop bucket and that the mop surface engaging face be above an intended level of filling of liquid in said mop bucket.  
25 It is further particularly preferred that said mop bucket have a protruding means at the bottom of the bucket which extends in a direction away from the bucket towards a free end of the mop handle when the mop head is placed between said mop surface engaging face and  
30 said abutment means so that said protruding means can be engaged by a users foot to stabilise the mop bucket during such cranking.

According to a second broad aspect of the present

invention there may be provided a mop squeezing device for co-operation with a mop head having a synthetic foam or like mop surface which can be compressed to squeeze said mop, said mop squeezing device having a mop surface 5 engaging face and displaced opposite to said face an abutment means for engaging with a rear face of the mop head or a part of the mop handle, whereby said mop surface can be squeezed to displace liquids from said mop by placing said mop head between said mop surface 10 engaging face and said abutment means with said mop surface against said mop surface engaging face and cranking said mop handle so that either said rear face of the mop head or a part of the mop handle engages said abutment means and a force can be applied by such 15 cranking and engagement, to force said mop surface onto said mop surface engaging face,

said mop surface engaging face having a swivel axis extending in a direction along the length of the mop head when said mop head is so engaged in said device, 20 said swivel axis permitting said mop surface engaging face to swing to, in turn, lie substantially co-planar with the mop surface and assist in permitting substantially uniform pressure forces to be applied over the whole of the mop surface during such cranking.

25 It is particularly preferred in this embodiment that the direction of cranking of the mop handle be either towards said abutment means or towards said mop surface engaging face.

According to a further broad aspect of the present 30 invention there is provided a mop having a synthetic foam or like mop surface which can be compressed to squeeze said mop, said mop surface being carried on a backing which is attached to a two axis swivel connector

between said mop head and a mop handle whereby to permit the mop surface engaging face to assume multi-axis of orientation during operation relative to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

5 It is particularly preferred that said backing be configured with channels in abutting relation with a rear face of the mop head to assist in liquid flow during compression of the mop head.

It is particularly preferred that there be openings  
10 at the ends of such channels to permit easy flow of liquid therefrom.

It is also particularly preferred that there be openings extending transversely to the direction of said channels to further assist in flow of liquid therefrom.

15 In order that the invention can be more clearly ascertained examples of preferred embodiments will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a cross-sectional side view of a mop  
20 bucket incorporating a mop squeezing device according to a first embodiment.

Figure 2 is a view similar to that of Figure 1 showing insertion of a mop head into said device.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the embodiment shown in  
25 Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 4 is a view similar to that of Figure 1 showing a second embodiment and having a mop head inserted in said device.

Figure 5 is a plan view of the bucket of Figure 4 without the mop in place.

Figure 6 is a side view of a preferred mop in part section.

Figure 7 is a front view of the mop shown in Figure

6 in part section.

Figure 8 is an isometric view of part of a swivel  
of the mop and;

5 Figure 9 is an isometric view of a further part of  
the swivel of the mop.

Figure 10 is a sectional side view of mop squeezing  
device according to a further embodiment.

Figure 11 is an enlarged view of a mop head and mop  
squeezing device of Figure 10.

10 Figure 12 is a view similar to Figure 11 and  
showing the mop head being squeezed.

Figure 13 is a plan view of the mop head squeezing  
device shown in Figure 10.

Referring firstly to the embodiment of Figures 1, 2  
15 and 3, it can be seen that there is provided a generally  
rectangular shaped deep mop bucket 1. The mop bucket 1  
conveniently has a handle 3 to permit easy carrying.  
Typically, the mop bucket can be made from a synthetic  
plastics material but production from other materials is  
20 not excluded. The mop bucket may be divided  
longitudinally by an upstanding rib 5 such that there  
are two compartments 7 and 9. These compartments 7 and  
9 may be completely isolated from one another or  
alternatively liquids may be able to flow between the  
25 compartments either through openings in the upstanding  
rib 5 or around the ends of the upstanding rib 5 where  
the rib 5 either contacts with or is arranged in close  
proximity to the extreme side edges of the bucket 11.  
The bucket 1 has an intended water level height 13 which  
30 typically can be equivalent to a water volume level of 7  
litres. This volume is not to be considered limiting.  
It is noted that the rib 5 extends above the water level  
height 13.

A mop squeezing device 15 is provided in the bucket 1 directly over compartment 7. The device 15 has a mop surface engaging face 17 and an abutment means 19. Figure 3 shows that the mop surface engaging face 17 and the abutment means 19 extend substantially the width of the bucket. The device 15 can be manufactured from a synthetics plastics material or some other suitable material such as stainless steel. The choice of materials is not to be considered limiting. Typically, 10 the device 15 is a synthetics plastics material moulded article which can be nested into the bucket 1 by an upper lip 21 locating over the uppermost portion of rib 5 and by the bottom edge 23 of a further lip 25 against the inside wall surface 27 of the bucket. Flanges 29 15 (see Figure 4) may extend from the rear face of the abutment means 19 around a mop head opening 31 between the abutment means 19 and the mop surface engaging face 17 to provide support and rigidity to the abutment means and the mop surface engaging face 17 along the length of 20 the device 5. A rear face 33 of each of the flanges 29 may terminate against the inside face 27 of the bucket 1, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 to provide for good support of the device 15. The tops 30 of those flanges 29 protrude into short length vertically extending 25 recesses 32 at the top of the side wall of the bucket 1, and locates and supports the device 15 relative to the bucket. Typically the device 15 is made to be easily removed from the bucket 1 and to be easily re-inserted into the position shown. This will assist in cleaning 30 of the various compartments 7 and 9 in the bucket 1.

It can be seen therefore, that the mop surface engaging face 17 is generally planar and is inclined at an angle relative to the vertical. Thus, the lowermost

portion of the mop head opening 31 will collect liquids squeezed from a mop head. Drainage openings 35 are provided in the bottom of the device 15 to permit escape of such liquids and to enable them to drain into compartment 7. Desirably, the openings 35 should be above the liquid level 13. Figure 2 shows supporting surfaces 37 extending from the under surface of the mop surface engaging face 17 which are arranged to bear against one side face of the rib 5 to provide further support to the mop surface engaging face 17. This will provide additional support during compressing of the mop head against the mop surface engaging face 17.

Figure 3 shows that the mop surface engaging face 17 is provided with a number of grooves 39 which extend in the vertical direction along the inclined face of the mop surface engaging face 17 and assist in drainage of liquids from the mop head. The grooves 39 are shown equally spaced and extending along the whole length of the mop surface engaging face 17.

The mop bucket 1 has a protruding means 41 which can be screw fastened to the undersurface of the bucket 1 in a recess 43 formed integrally in the bottom of the bucket 1. Bosses 45 may be moulded on the undersurface of the bucket 1 into which screws 47 can pass to hold the protruding means 41 relative to the bucket 1. The protruding means 41 acts as a foot engaging means to stabilise the bucket during squeezing of the mop head as will be explained in due course. The upper surface of the protruding means 41 may be lightly grooved to assist in non-slip engagement with a users foot. Typically, the protruding means 41 extends only across a part width of the bucket 1 as shown in Figure 3. Whilst the protruding means 41 is shown as a separate item fastened

to the bucket 1 it should be appreciated that it may be incorporated as an integral part of the moulding of bucket 1 if desired.

Referring now specifically to Figure 2 it can be seen that a mop 49 having a mop handle 51, a mop head backing 53, and a synthetic foam or like material mop head 55 can be placed in the opening 31. Typically, the dimensions of the mop surface engaging face 17 are slightly larger than the corresponding dimensions of the mop material 55. Figure 2 shows that the mop 49 has a two axis swivel connector between the mop handle 51 and the mop backing 53. This will be described further in due course. It should be noted however, that a swivel connection is not an essential feature for operation. The connection between the handle 51 and the backing 53 may be completely rigid if a mop of that type is required. This will not detract from operation of squeezing of the mop material 55.

Figure 3 clearly shows that the mop surface which comprises the under surface of the mop material 55 is generally planar. Thus, it corresponds to the planar arrangement of the mop surface engaging face 17. The dimensions of spacing apart of the mop surface engaging face 17 and the abutment means 19, and the dimensions of the mop 49 and particularly the mop head 53 and the mop handle 51 are such that when the mop head is inserted in the opening 31, the handle 51 can be cranked in the direction of the arrow as shown in Figure 2 to cause the mop handle 51 to engage with the abutment means 19. This in turn, will cause force to be applied by the cranking which will urge the mop surface into engagement with the mop surface engaging face 17 and will compress the mop material 55. Liquids will therefore drain from

the mop material 55 and escape through the openings 35 into compartment 7. The dimensions and angles of inclination of the mop surface engaging face 17 are such that substantially uniform pressure forces will be applied over the whole of the mop surface and thus maximise substantially uniform squeezing of the mops material and the mop surface when the mop handle 51 is so cranked.

The protruding means 41 is engaged by a user's foot to stabilise the bucket and to counter forces applied by cranking of the handle 51 which might otherwise tend to tip the bucket.

In the embodiment of Figure 2 it is shown that the mop handle 51 (and in particular a connecting ferrule 57) engages with the abutment means 19. In an alternative arrangement, the abutment means 19 may be arranged to engage with a rear face 59 of the mop head backing 53. In this case, the mop handle 51 can be rigidly connected with the mop head backing 53 without the swivel connector. In this way, similar cranking forces can then be applied to those described above for the case where there is a swivel connector between the mop handle 51 and the mop head itself.

Referring now to the embodiment shown in Figures 4 and 5, the arrangement is generally similar to that shown in the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3 except that the mop engaging surface 17 is mounted for swinging movement about a swivel axis 61. It is noted that in this embodiment, the abutment means 19 is formed as a separate item to the mop surface engaging face 17.

The mop surface engaging face 17 can be pre-moulded from a synthetic plastics material or fabricated from some other material so that it has axle arms 63

extending from opposite sides (see Figure 5). The axle arms 63 define a swivel axis 61. Suitable re-enforcing ribs 65 may be provided under the mop surface engaging face 17 as shown in Figure 4. One of these ribs may co-  
5 inside with the swivel axis 61 to provide for enhanced rigidity. The bucket 1 can have axle recesses 67 formed therein into which the axle arm 63 may locate. Thus, these axle recesses 67 will support the mop surface engaging face 17 above the liquid level height 13 and  
10 enable the mop surface engaging face to swing about the axis 61.

The abutment means 19 can be formed of a synthetics material or some other suitable material and fastened to the inside face of the bucket 1 above the mop surface engaging face 17 as shown in Figure 4. The fastening may be by means of locating within a special recess (not shown) in the bucket 1 or by being otherwise fastened thereto such as by welding or the like or it may be integrally moulded with the bucket.  
15

20 The mop surface engaging face 17 and the abutment means 19 preferably extend across the width of the bucket as shown in Figure 5.

In this embodiment, the mop handle 51 may be cranked in either of two directions to effect squeezing of the mop head. When looking at Figure 4, and cranking in a clockwise direction, the backing 53 will locate against the abutment means 19. The mop surface engaging face 17 will then swing about swivel axis 61 to assume a position where continued cranking of the mop handle 51  
25 will cause the mop material 55 to be compressed to, in turn, squeeze liquid from the mop face. By cranking in a counterclockwise direction, the handle 51 will engage the abutment means 19 and the mop surface engaging face  
30

will similarly swing to permit liquids to be squeezed from the mop material 55. In both cases, the swinging will be such that substantially uniform pressure forces will be applied over the whole face of the mop material 55 so that substantially uniform squeezing of liquid from the mop material 55 will occur.

As in the case of the embodiment of Figures 1 through 3, and in the case of the embodiment of Figures 4 and 5, grooves 39 may be provided in the mop surface 10 engaging face 17 to assist draining.

Referring now to Figures 6 through 9 there is shown detail of a two axis pivot head mop 49. Here the mop has a handle 51 and a backing 53 to which mop material 55 can be releasably fastened. Figure 7 shows an arrangement where screw means 69 can be used to pass through openings (not clearly shown) in the backing 53 to hold the mop material 55 relative to the backing 53. Such connection is known in the art of foam head mops. The backing 53 has a pair of opposed recesses 71 (only one of which is shown) into which an arm 73 of a 'U' shaped swivel part 75 can be received. The 'U' shaped swivel part 75 is generally flat and has a central body portion 77 having an opening 79 extending therethrough. The flat body part 77 is arranged to fit within a slot 81 within a further swivel part 83. The further swivel part 83 has an opening 85 extending therethrough in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the slot 81. The further swivel part 83 is connectable to the handle 51 by means of a ferrule 57 which is screw threaded on 20 to the further swivel part 83 and which has an internal bore into which the handle 51 can be screw fastened. Tightening of the ferrule 57 effects clamping to the handle 51. In this case, the handle 51 need not be

screw fitable within the further swivel part 83 but may merely be a frictional fit therein a suitable opening (not shown). A screw fit is not to be excluded.

A pin (not shown) passes through the opening 85 and 5 opening 79 to hold the two swivel parts 75 and 83 together. Thus, the arm 73 provide a first swivel axis and the pivot pin provides a further swivel axis mutually perpendicular to the axis provided by arm 73. This arrangement permits the mop head to assume various 10 angles on a floor or other surface relative to the longitudinal axis of the handle 51.

Figures 6 and 7 clearly show that the backing 53 is provided with longitudinal channels 87 which extend the length of the mop head. It also shows that there are a 15 series of openings 89 which extend around all side edges of the mop backing 53 and communicate with the channels 87 to assist draining of liquids from the mop material 55.

Referring now to Figures 10 through 13 there is 20 shown a further example of a mop squeezing device. In this example, the mop bucket 1 is divided into two compartments 7 and 9 which are completely separate from one another, compartment 9 is provided for clean liquids for washing the floor or the like with a mop. 25 Compartment 7 is provided for collecting dirty water which may be squeezed from the mop. An upstanding rib 5 separates compartment 7 from compartment 9. Mounted within an upper portion of compartment 7 is an inclined mop surface engaging face 17 . This represents an 30 inclined squeezing surface. The mop 49 has a mop head backing 53 and the handle 51 is rigidly attached to the backing 53. The backing 53 carries a synthetic foam or like mop surface 55. Mounted on a side wall of the

bucket above the mop surface engaging face 17 is an abutment means 19.

In use, the mop 49 is inserted into the mop squeezing device 15 so that the backing 53 locates under 5 the abutment means 19 and so the mop material 55 engages with the mop surface engaging face 17. The handle 51 can then be cranked in the direction shown by the arrow in Figure 11 to effect squeezing of liquid from the mop material 55. Perforations 91 are provided in the mop 10 surface engaging face 17 to allow water to drain therethrough and collect in the bottom of compartment 7. In some embodiments the mop surfacing engaging face 17 will have no perforations and is simply inclined to allow liquid to flow downwards to the bottom most edge and 15 pass through an opening (not shown) into the compartment 7. In some configurations, it may be desirable that the mop surface engaging face be curved to facilitate a more progressive squeezing action across the face of the mop material 55.

20 Typically the mop surface engaging face can be provided from a sheet of plastics material, metal material or other suitable material.

Figure 13 clearly shows that the abutment means 19 comprises two spaced protrusions 19. The spacing is 25 sufficient to allow the mop handle 51 to pass therebetween to facilitate engagement of the lowermost surfaces of the abutment means 19 with the uppermost face of the mop head backing 53.

It is envisaged that the device may be configured 30 for retro-fitment to an existing conventional bucket. For example, the mop surface engaging face 17 and the abutment means 19 may be formed as a unit which may be realisably clipped over the rim of a bucket, thereby

avoiding the need for a separate special purpose container assembly.

The embodiments provide for a simple and effective means of squeezing excess liquid from a mop head.

- 5 Unlike prior art devices, the squeezing action of the present examples is relatively gentle, which significantly increases the life of the mop material 55. Furthermore, due to its simplicity, the examples are relatively cheap to manufacture. The mechanical
- 10 advantage conveniently offered by the mop handle 51 also allows the device to be used with relatively little effort compared to prior art devices. For these reasons, the examples provide a number of commercially significant advantages over the prior art.
- 15 It should be appreciated that modifications may be made to the invention as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art of mops and/or buckets. These and other modifications may be made without departing from the ambit of the invention the nature of which is to be determined from the foregoing description.
- 20

CLAIMS

1. A mop squeezing device for co-operation with a mop head having a synthetic foam or like mop surface which can be compressed to squeeze said mop, said mop squeezing device having a mop surface engaging face and displaced opposite to said face, abutment means for engagement with a rear face of the mop head or a part of the mop handle, whereby said mop surface can be squeezed to displace liquids therefrom by placing said mop head between said mop surface engaging face and said abutment means with said mop surface against said mop surface engaging face and cranking said mop handle so that either said rear face of the mop head or a part of the mop handle engages said abutment means and a force can be applied by such cranking and engagement to force said mop surface onto said mop surface engaging face.
2. A device as claimed in claim 1 configured for use with a particular mop so that the dimension of spacing of said mop surface engaging face and said abutment means, and the dimensions of the mop head assist substantially uniform pressure forces to be applied over the whole of the mop surface to affect substantially uniform squeezing of the mop surface when said mop handle is cranked.
3. A device as claimed in claim 1 and incorporated in a mop bucket so that the mop surface engaging face is above an intended level of filling of liquid in said mop bucket.
4. A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said mop bucket has a protruding means at the bottom of the bucket which extends in a direction away from the bucket towards a free end of the mop handle when the mop head

is placed between said mop surface engaging face and said abutment means so that said protruding means can be engaged by a users foot to stabilise the mop bucket during such cranking.

- 5 5. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mop surface engaging face has openings therein to allow liquid squeezed from said synthetic foam or like mop surface to pass therethrough.
- 10 6. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mop surface engaging face is curved to facilitate uniform progressive squeezing action to said synthetic foam or like mop surface.
- 15 7. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mop surface engaging face is inclined to facilitate drainage of liquid therefrom.
- 20 8. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said abutment means comprises a pair of spaced abutment means, the spacing apart being sufficient to allow a mop handle to move there between as said mop is cranked.
- 25 9. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mop surface engaging face has a swivel axis extending in a direction along the length of the mop head of a mop engaged in said device, said swivel axis permitting said mop surface engaging face to swing to, in turn, lie substantially co-planar with the mop surface and assist in permitting substantially uniform pressure forces to be applied over the mop surface during such cranking.
- 30 10. A mop squeezing device for co-operation with a mop head having a synthetic foam or like mop surface which can be compressed to squeeze said mop, said mop squeezing device having a mop surface engaging face and displaced opposite to said face an abutment means for engaging with a rear face of the mop head or a part of

- th mop handle, wher by said mop surfac can be squeezed to displace liquids from said mop by placing said mop head between said mop surface engaging face and said abutment means with said mop surface against said mop 5 surface engaging face and cranking said mop handle so that either said rear face of the mop head or a part of the mop handle engages said abutment means and a force can be applied by such cranking and engagement, to force said mop surface onto said mop surface engaging face,
- 10 said mop surface engaging face having a swivel axis extending in a direction along the length of the mop head when said mop head is so engaged in said device, said swivel axis permitting said mop surface engaging face to swing to, in turn, lie substantially co-planar 15 with the mop surface and assist in permitting substantially uniform pressure forces to be applied over the mop surface during such cranking.
11. A device as claimed in claim 10 constructed so the direction of cranking of the mop handle can be either 20 towards said abutment means or towards said mop surface engaging face to effect squeezing of liquid from said synthetic foam or like material.
12. A device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mop 25 surface engaging face is grooved to facilitate drainage of liquid therefrom.
13. A device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mop surface engaging face is inclined to facilitate drainage of liquid therefrom.
14. A mop having a synthetic foam or like mop surface 30 which can be compressed to squeeze said mop, said mop surface being carried on a backing which is attached to a two axis swivel connector b tween said mop head and a mop handle whereby to permit the mop surface engaging

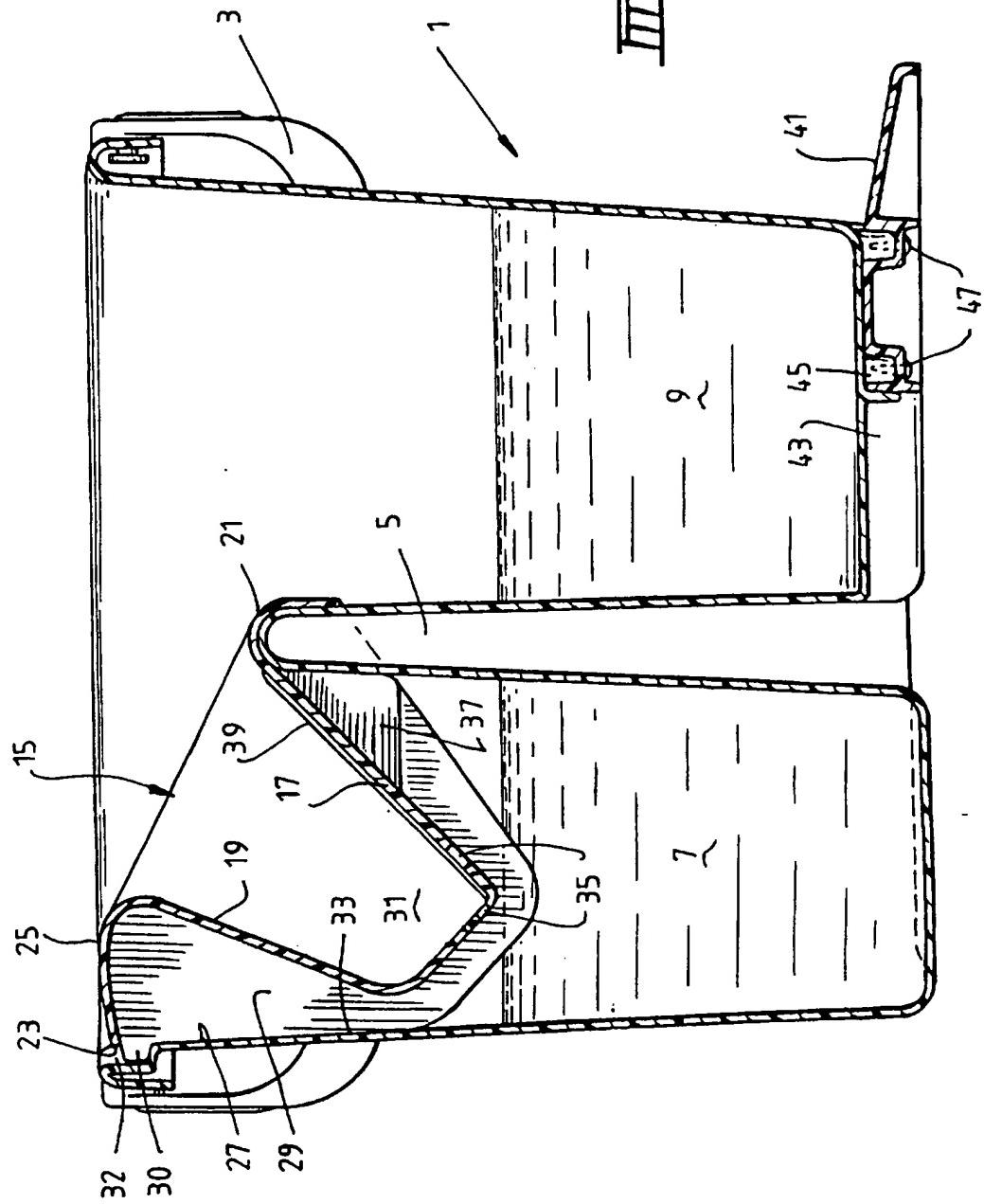
face to assume multi-axis of orientation during operation relative to the longitudinal axis of the handle.

15. A mop as claimed in claim 14 said backing being configured with channels in abutting relation with a rear face of the mop head to assist in liquid flow during compression of the mop head.

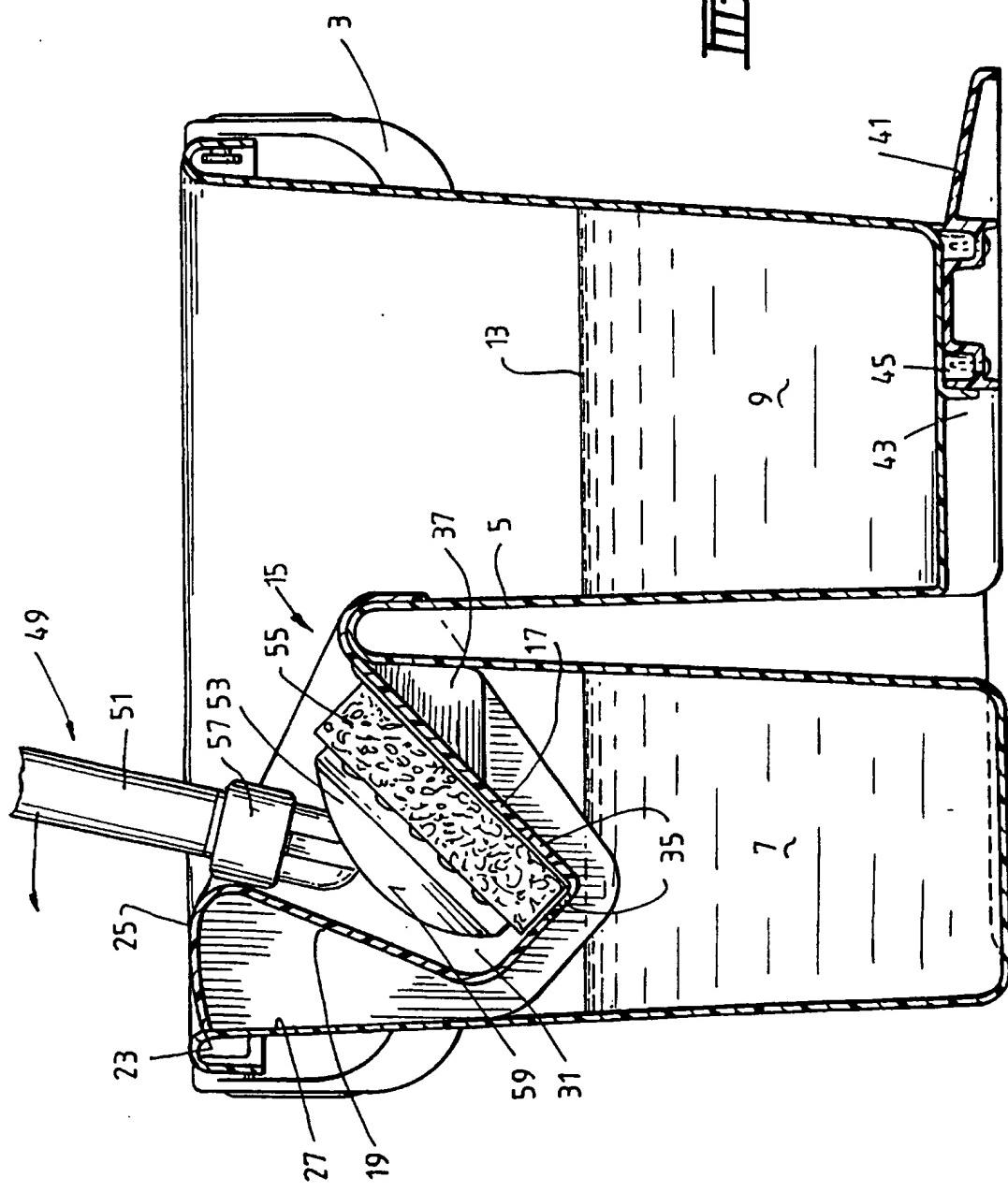
16. A mop as claimed in claim 15 wherein there are openings at the ends of said channels to permit easy flow of liquid therefrom.

17. A mop as claimed in claim 15 wherein there are openings extending transversely to the direction of said channels to further assist in flow of liquid therefrom.

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III. 2.



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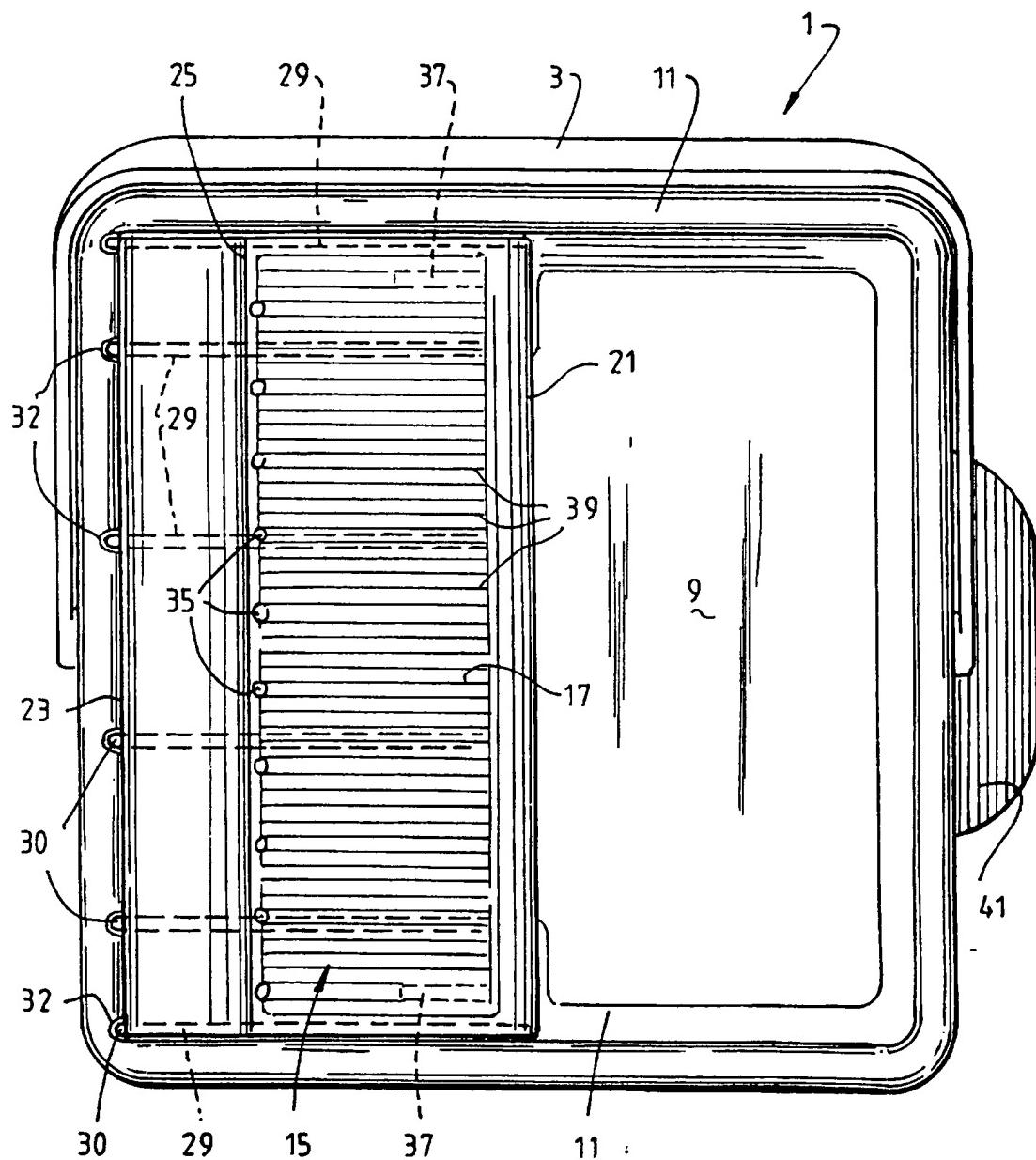
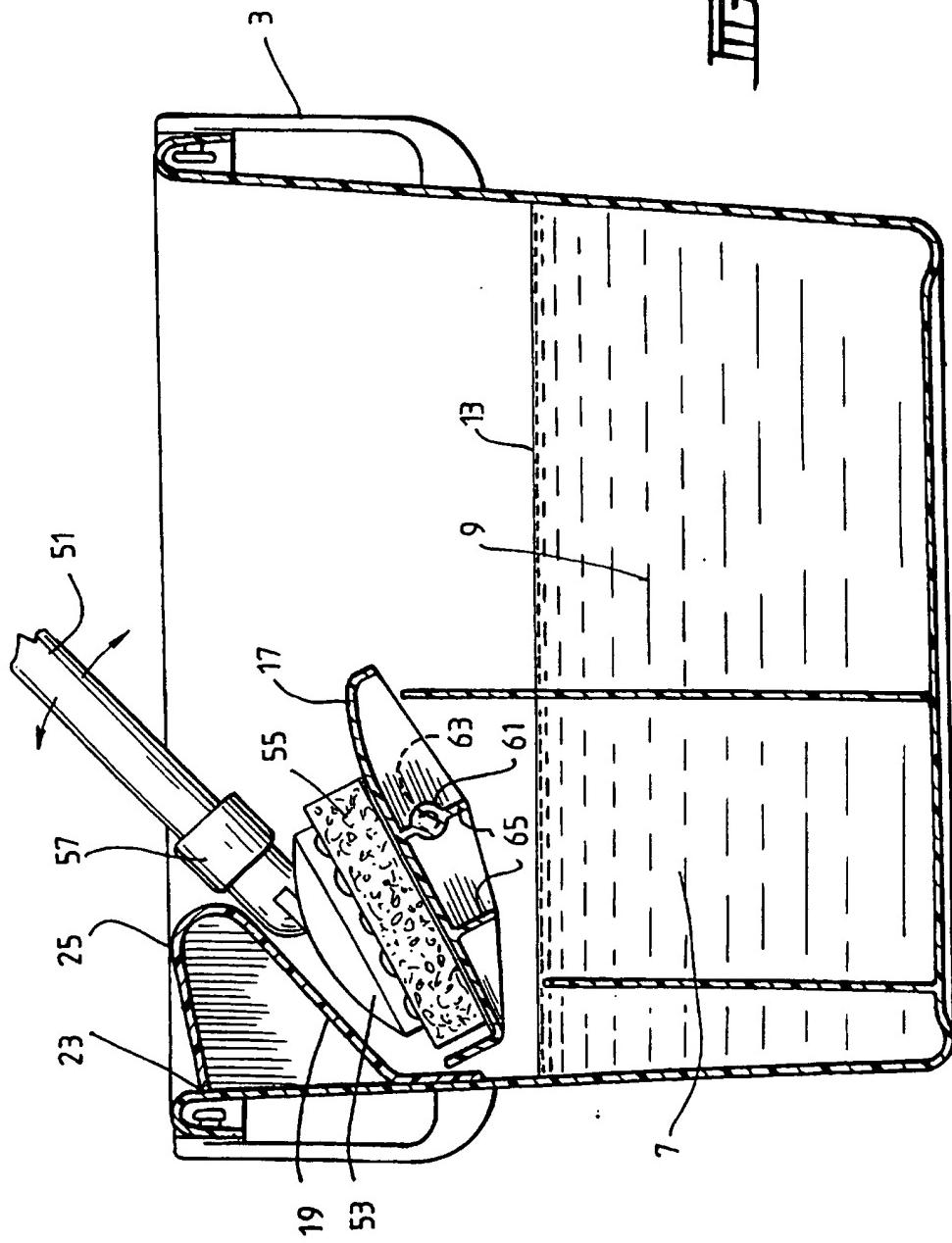
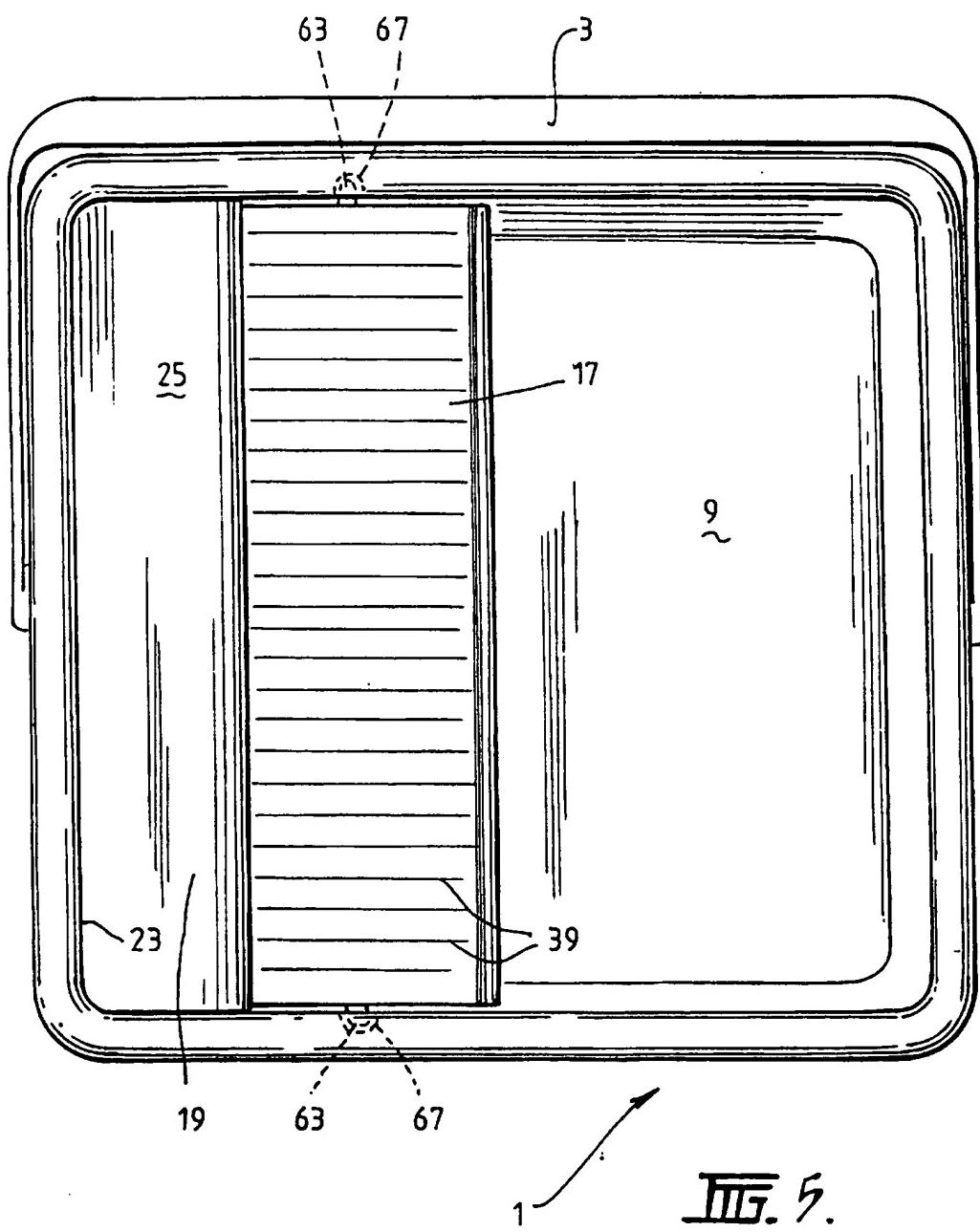


FIG. 3.

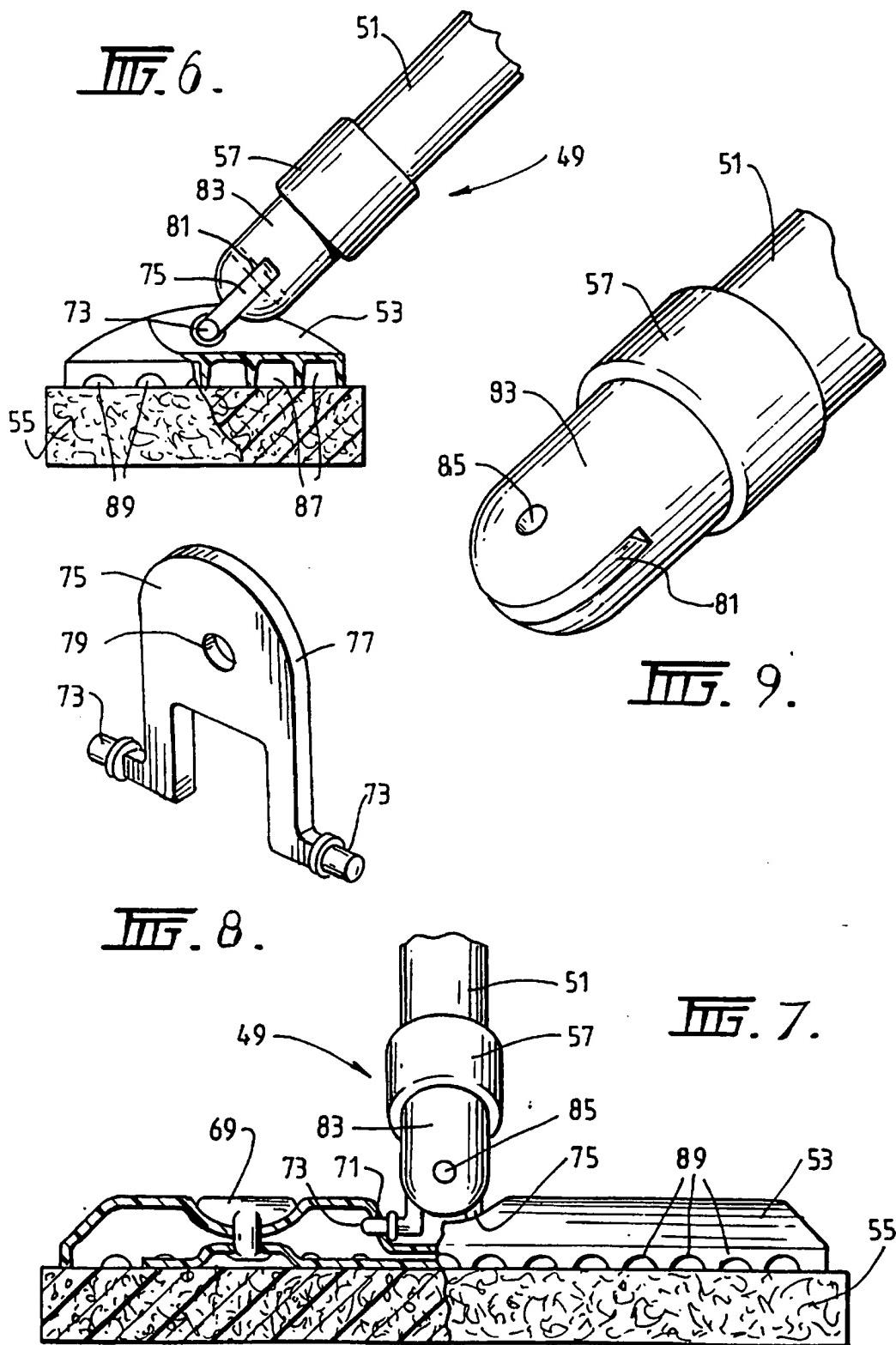
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III. 4.

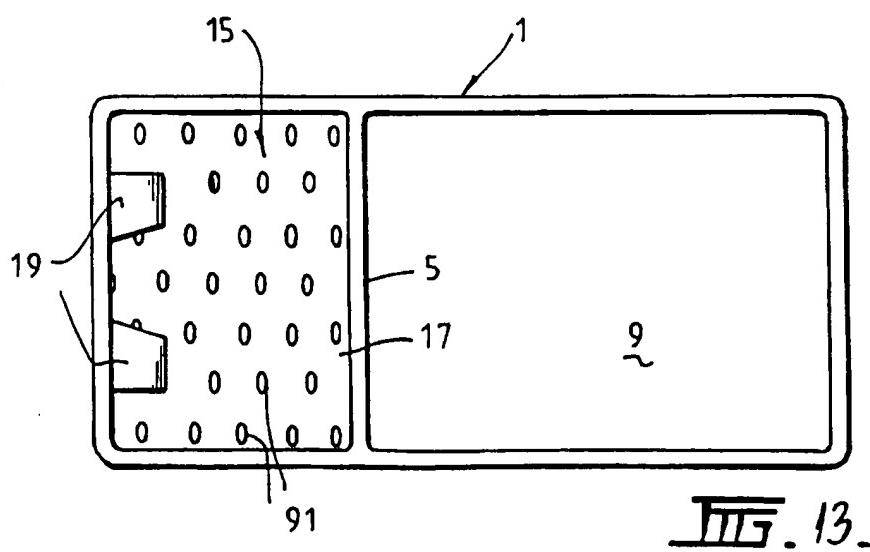
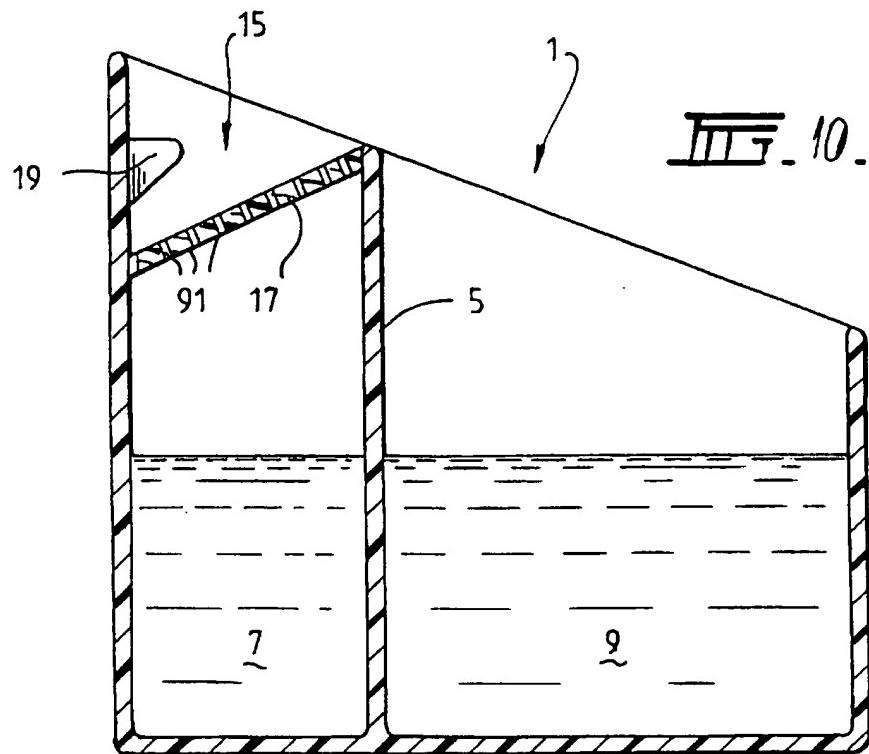
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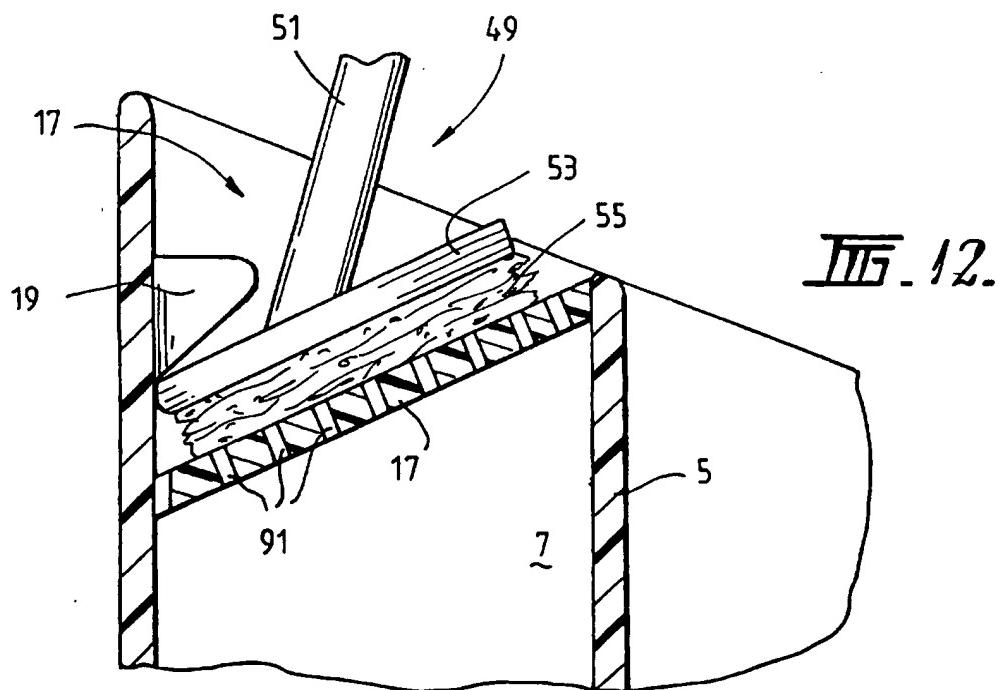
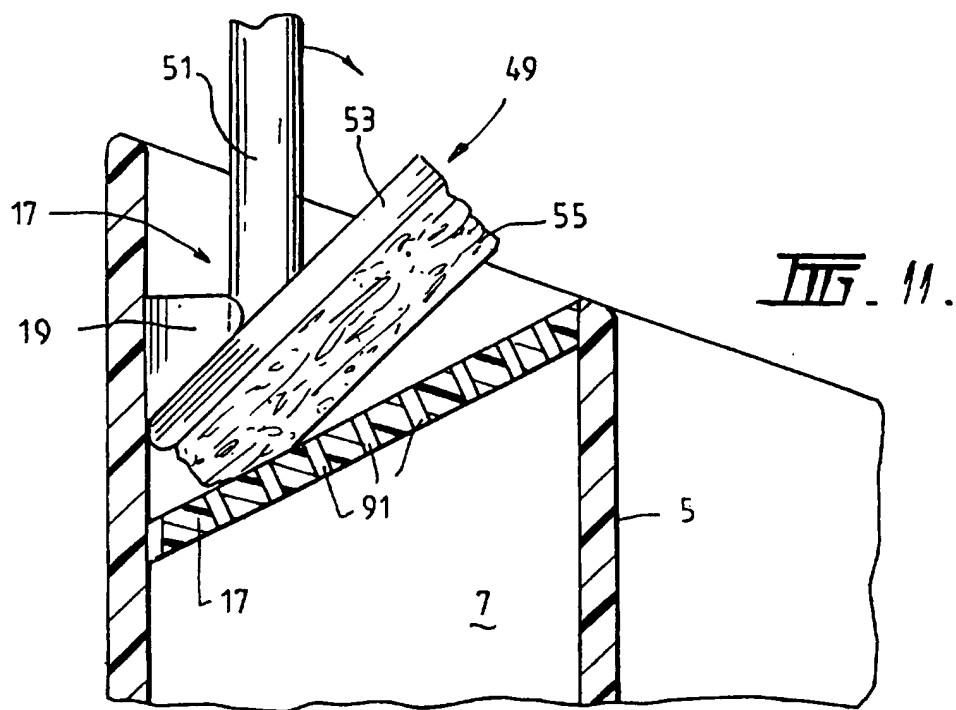
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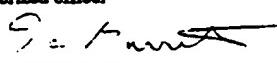
8/8



**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International Application No.

PCT/AU 97/00510

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
Int Cl <sup>6</sup> : A47L 13/58, 13/258; B25G 3/38		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC: A47L 13/58, 13/257, 13/258; B25G 3/38		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC as above		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DERWENT: A47L 13/58, 13/50, 13/257, 13/258, 13/25; B25G 3/38; (A47L or MOP#) AND (SPONGE OR FOAM) AND (DRAIN OR SQUEEZ: OR WRING: OR ARTICULAT: OR SWIVEL: OR HING: OR PIVOT:)		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, 5502858 A (HOAGLAND et al) 2 April 1996 Abstract	1, 2, 6, 7-9
X	US, 3991431 A (THIELEN) 16 November 1976 Abstract	15
X	US, 3562841 A (ROYALTY) 16 February 1971 Abstract, Fig. 9	1-5, 7-9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Special categories of cited documents:</li> <li>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> <li>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 September 1997	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>29 SEP 1997</b>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA      Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer  <b>I.A.BARRETT</b> Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2189	

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.  
PCT/AU 97/00510

C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, 3299458 A (ROYALTY) 24 January 1967 entire specification	1-5, 7-9
X	US, 2893033 A (VOSBIBIAN et al) 7 July 1959 fig 1-5	15
X	US, 2851710 A (LEACH) 16 September 1958 fig 1-9	1-9
X	GB, 2242825 A (RUBBERMELD COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS INC) 16 October 1991 Abstract	1-9
X	GB, 330543 A (JORDAN) 10 June 1930 fig 1-5	1-9
X	WO, 94/15520 A1 (HENKEL ECOLAB GMBH & CO OHG) 21 July 1994 Abstract	15

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International Application No.  
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C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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X	US, 2893033 A (VOSBIBIAN et al) 7 July 1959 fig 1-5	15
X	US, 2851710 A (LEACH) 16 September 1958 fig 1-9	1-9
X	GB, 2242825 A (RUBBERMELD COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS INC) 16 October 1991 Abstract	1-9
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X	WO, 94/15520 A1 (HENKEL ECOLAB GMBH & CO OHG) 21 July 1994 Abstract	15